

Newsletter

December 2022

Update from Ian Valvona, Chair of Governors at Richmond upon Thames College

This is the last issue of the newsletter for 2022 and my last newsletter as Chair because of our imminent merger with HCUC. I know! Time flies! I feel like I've blinked once and we're already at the end of the calendar year. The college has celebrated our wonderful student achievements and awards across the whole year and in this final newsletter I continue to recognise this term's fantastic work.

As you will be aware RuTC and HCUC have been working closely towards the creation of Harrow, Richmond & Uxbridge Colleges (HRUC). I am delighted that the proposed merger is due for completion on Wednesday 4 January 2023. The proposed merger is a watershed moment in Richmond upon Thames College's long history. It will bring together three excellent colleges with complementary strengths to continue providing outstanding education and training to students across a large part of London whilst ensuring financial stability for the long term. Working together we will be investing in new collaborative opportunities to deliver outstanding quality and support for local businesses to get the skills they need. HRUC will invest in new STEM facilities and deliver exciting opportunities for young people to progress into Higher Education through A Levels, T Levels and other routes.

2023 promises to be an exciting year ahead for students, staff and our local communities.

College and Student Achievements

College Manager - part of Oval Invincibles team - wins women's Lord's Hundred cricket tournament



Photo credit: Dave Vokes Photography

RuTC's Teaching and Learning Manager, Kirstie White, alongside the rest of the Oval Invincibles team, won the women's 'The Hundred' championship on Saturday 3 September at the famous Lord's cricket ground in London. The Oval Invincibles won the championship title for the second year in a row beating the Southern Brave women's team by five wickets in a repeat of last year's final match. Kirstie was both overjoyed and proud of her experience of the championship, with the Oval Invincibles winning their second Hundred in a row.

Student Bella Brown excels at World Junior Championships



In May A Level student Bella Brown won 6th place at the IWF (International Weightlifting Foundation) World Junior Championships in Athens, Greece, taking part in the Women's 76kg category. Bella smashed the U20 British records for her snatch, clean & jerk lift total. Our huge congratulations to Bella on her really impressive achievement.

In addition, Bella is a British Champion and top-ranked under 17 female weightlifter, regardless of weight class. Team GB entered only 6 athletes into the recent World Junior Championships and - following the competition - Bella was declared as the top-ranked finisher of the team.

Acting student shortlisted by National Theatre in Youth Playwright Competition

Acting student, Loresa Leka was one of 8 playwrights shortlisted out of 400 entries for the National Theatre's 'New Views' competition 2022.



Loresa, who studies Acting Level 3 at RuTC was encouraged by her teacher to submit an entry to the National Theatre's annual 'New Views' playwriting competition for young people aged 14 – 19. 'New Views' is a National Theatre initiative to encourage and empower young people to tell the stories that matter to them, as well as conveying the power of theatre to create a place of community and a shared experience of storytelling.

Loresa's entry, Teapot Troubles, is based on true experiences and stories passed down through Loresa's family following the 1998-99 Kosovan war. Teapot Troubles received a professional rehearsal reading in the Clore Learning Centre at the National Theatre in July 2022.

Biomedical student takes 6th place at English Schools Athletic Association Championship Track and Field Competition



During the summer Biomedical student Ruth Ann Otaruoh won 6th place at the ESAA Track and Field Championships for her Triple Jump performance. Ruth began triple jumping in 2016, whilst she was at secondary school and soon fell in love with the sport. Soon after starting jumping Ruth joined the Thames Valley Harriers and quickly progressed to national competitions including county and South of England Championships, winning her first at the age of 14. Ruth is currently ranked 5th in the UK Women's U20s Triple Jump category. Amazing achievements!

Art students win Friends of Turner's House Award



At the end of October, RuTC Level 3 Art and Design students were recognised and awarded by the Friends of Turner's House in Twickenham for their intricately planned and orchestrated project in collaboration with the Turner's House Trust. The students were tasked with creating a collection of decorative and functional items which included coasters, greetings cards and notelets that will be professionally manufactured for the Trust's gift shop and in recognition of the late – great – artist JMW Turner. .

RuTC wins 'Best Training Provider' at ECITB Awards 2022

At the end of October, Richmond upon Thames College won 'Best Training Provider' at the ECITB (Engineering, Construction Industry Training Board) Awards 2022. The College won the award for being an exceptional ECITB approved training provider with a proven track record in delivering high quality training and assessment and through this creating a positive impact with learners and employers. The award acknowledges and celebrates Richmond upon Thames College as an exceptional ECITB approved training provider and recognises the impact we have made by delivering excellent training to learners and employers.

Events

Over the last few months, RuTC has hosted a number of exciting events for current and prospective students. These include:

Freshers' Fair

In September, RuTC students enthusiastically started the new term and their new college by joining in RuTC's annual Freshers' Fair. The Fair is a chance for both new and current students to reintegrate into college life by learning about what the college has to offer in terms of extra-curricular opportunities including sports teams, clubs and much more. Local organisations including Virgin Active, Heatham House, Metropolitan Police and METRO charity had stalls at the Fair and highlighted what resources and opportunities are available to young people in the local area. Students also had fun racing one another in the Sports Hall on the College's inflatable assault course!

Open Events

During the autumn term, the College has opened its doors to hundreds of prospective students and their parents/carers at three open events that took place in the main building. There are a further four events that are being held in the spring and summer terms.

Colleges Week

This October, Richmond upon Thames College proudly celebrated Colleges Week 2022, organised by the Association of Colleges. The week provides an opportunity to celebrate the brilliant activities all colleges across the country undertake to support people - younger and older - to upskill and retrain and to support employers to become anchor institutions in their communities.

RuTC, alongside all other Further Education colleges, is an essential community anchor, playing a central role in the local and regional community and labour market as well as providing opportunities to empower people and enhance life chances for millions of people.

Black History Month

October is internationally celebrated as 'Black History Month' - a time when Black History and Black pioneers are commemorated and celebrated for their achievements. RuTC is committed to valuing and promoting Black History during October, every year, as well as delivering on the aims of the month throughout the year, through a variety of channels. During the month, various talks were delivered to students along the theme: 'Are actions more impactful than words?' as well as how to be an active ally to the black community. The college library displayed an impressive collection of Black History related books and authors and RuTC's October book club meeting featured books solely by black authors. In addition, RuTC catering staff made food for staff and students that celebrated our cultural diversity.

On behalf of the RuTC Board of Governors I wish you all a very happy, safe and joyous festive time and let's all look forward to a wonderful 2023 as Harrow, Richmond and Uxbridge Colleges!

Ian Valvona